

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for sharing a secure communication
2 session with a client between a plurality of servers, comprising:
3 receiving a message from the client at a first server in the plurality of
4 servers, the message including a session identifier that identifies a secure
5 communication session with the client; and
6 if the session identifier does not correspond to an active secure
7 communication session on the first server, establishing an active secure
8 communication session with the client on the first server by,
9 attempting to retrieve state information associated with the
10 session identifier for an active secure communication session
11 between the client and a second server ~~from the plurality of servers~~
12 ~~by the first server,~~ wherein the state information is retrieved from
13 a third server which is different from the client, wherein the state
14 information includes a session encryption keys used to encrypt
15 communications associated with the active secure communication
16 session between the client and the second server, wherein the first
17 server is different from the second server,
18 if the state information for the active secure communication
19 session is retrieved, using the state information including the
20 encryption keys to share the active secure communication session
21 established between the client and the second server for subsequent

22 communications between the client and the first server without
23 having to set up a new secure communication session between the
24 client and the first server, wherein the state information is purged
25 from the second server after the state information is retrieved by
26 the first server, ~~wherein sharing the active secure communication~~
27 ~~session allows a single SSL session to be simultaneously shared by~~
28 ~~multiple servers, and~~
29 if the state information for the active secure communication
30 session is not retrieved, communicating with the client to establish
31 the active secure communication session with the client.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attempting to retrieve the
2 state information includes:
3 attempting to use the session identifier to identify the second server in the
4 plurality of servers that has an active secure communication session with the
5 client that corresponds to the session identifier; and
6 attempting to retrieve the state information from the second server.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attempting to retrieve the
2 state information involves attempting to retrieve the state information from a
3 centralized repository that is in communication with the plurality of servers.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the centralized repository
2 includes a database for storing the state information.

1 5. (Canceled).

1 6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the state
2 information includes:

3 ~~a session encryption key for the secure communication session;~~
4 the session identifier for the secure communication session; and
5 a running message digest for the secure communication session.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 using the message to update the running message digest; and
3 checkpointing the updated running message digest to a location outside of
4 the first server.

1 8. (Canceled).

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initially
2 establishing an active secure communication session between the client and the
3 second server, the active secure communication session being identified by the
4 session identifier.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attempting to retrieve the
2 state information includes authenticating and authorizing the first server.

1 11-12 (Canceled).

1 13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method for sharing a secure communication session with a client between a
4 plurality of servers, the method comprising:

5 receiving a message from the client at a first server in the plurality of
6 servers, the message including a session identifier that identifies a secure
7 communication session with the client; and
8 if the session identifier does not correspond to an active secure
9 communication session on the first server, establishing an active secure
10 communication session with the client on the first server by,
11 attempting to retrieve state information associated with the
12 session identifier for an active secure communication session
13 between the client and a second server, wherein the state
14 information is retrieved from a third server which is different from
15 the client, from the plurality of servers by the first server, wherein
16 the state information includes a session encryption keys associated
17 with the active secure communication session used to encrypt
18 ~~communications~~ between the client and the second server, wherein
19 the first server is different from the second server,
20 if the state information for the active secure communication
21 session is retrieved, using the state information including the
22 encryption keys to share the active secure communication session
23 established between the client and the second server for subsequent
24 communications between the client and the first server without
25 having to set up a new secure communication session between the
26 client and the first server, ~~wherein the state information is purged~~
27 ~~from the second server after the state information is retrieved by~~
28 ~~the first server, wherein sharing the active secure communication~~
29 ~~session allows a single SSL session to be simultaneously shared by~~
30 ~~multiple servers, and~~

31 if the state information for the active secure communication
32 session is not retrieved, communicating with the client to establish
33 the active secure communication session with the client.

1 14. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein attempting to retrieve the state information includes:
3 attempting to use the session identifier to identify the second server in the
4 plurality of servers that has an active secure communication session with the
5 client that corresponds to the session identifier; and
6 attempting to retrieve the state information from the second server.

1 15. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein attempting to retrieve the state information involves attempting to
3 retrieve the state information from a centralized repository that is in
4 communication with the plurality of servers.

1 16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,
2 wherein the centralized repository includes a database for storing the state
3 information.

1 17. (Canceled).

1 18. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 13, wherein the state information includes:
3 ~~a session encryption key for the secure communication session;~~
4 the session identifier for the secure communication session; and
5 a running message digest for the secure communication session.

1 19. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18,
2 wherein the method further comprises:
3 using the message to update the running message digest; and
4 checkpointing the updated running message digest to a location outside of
5 the first server.

1 20. (Canceled).

1 21. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein the method further comprises initially establishing an active secure
3 communication session between the client and the second server, the active secure
4 communication session being identified by the session identifier.

1 22. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein attempting to retrieve the state information includes authenticating and
3 authorizing the first server.

1 23-24 (Canceled).

1 25. (Currently amended) An apparatus that shares a secure communication
2 session with a client between a plurality of servers, comprising:
3 a receiving mechanism, at a first server in the plurality of servers, that
4 receives a message from the client, the message including a session identifier that
5 identifies a secure communication session with the client;
6 an examination mechanism that examines the session identifier; and
7 a session initialization mechanism, on the first server, wherein if the
8 session identifier does not correspond to an active secure communication session

9 on the first server, the session initialization mechanism is configured to establish
10 an active secure communication session with the client by,
11 attempting to retrieve state information associated with the
12 session identifier for an active secure communication session
13 between the client and a second server, wherein the state
14 information is retrieved from a third server which is different from
15 the client, from the plurality of servers by the first server, wherein
16 the state information includes a session encryption keys associated
17 with the active secure communication session used to encrypt
18 communications between the client and the second server, wherein
19 the first server is different from the second server,
20 if the state information for the active secure communication
21 session is retrieved, using the state information including the
22 encryption keys to share the active secure communication session
23 established between the client and the second server for subsequent
24 communications between the client and the first server without
25 having to set up a new secure communication session between the
26 client and the first server, ~~wherein the state information is purged~~
27 ~~from the second server after the state information is retrieved by~~
28 ~~the first server, wherein sharing the active secure communication~~
29 ~~session allows a single SSL session to be simultaneously shared by~~
30 ~~multiple servers, and~~
31 if the state information for the active secure communication
32 session is not retrieved, communicating with the client to establish
33 the active secure communication session with the client.

1 26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the session initialization
2 mechanism is configured to attempt to retrieve the state information by:

3 attempting to use the session identifier to identify the second server in the
4 plurality of servers that has an active secure communication session with the
5 client that corresponds to the session identifier; and
6 attempting to retrieve the state information from the second server.

1 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the session initialization
2 mechanism is configured to attempt to retrieve the state information by attempting
3 to retrieve the state information from a centralized repository that is in
4 communication with the plurality of servers.

1 28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the centralized
2 repository includes a database for storing the state information.

1 29. (Canceled).

1 30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the state
2 information includes:
3 ~~a session encryption key for the secure communication session;~~
4 the session identifier for the secure communication session; and
5 a running message digest for the secure communication session.

1 31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising an updating
2 mechanism that is configured to:
3 use the message to update the running message digest; and to
4 checkpoint the updated running message digest to a location outside of the
5 first server.

1 32. (Canceled).

1 33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the session initialization
2 mechanism is configured to authenticate and authorize the first server prior to
3 receiving the state information.

1 34-35 (Canceled).